

the first amendment is sacrosanct, that we cannot move forward with this, to ask themselves the question: Why is it OK to waive first amendment rights and not apply the first amendment to those commercial entities who are using the symbol of Joe Camel because that is so destructive to the health and welfare of our children, but when it comes to bestiality, when it comes to some of the worst forms of pornography that is wide open on the worldwide web and available to our children with the click of a mouse, that, oh, no, the first amendment must apply here? We have to be purists on this?

I ask my colleagues to ask themselves as parents, and ask the parents they represent in their States, what those parents think is the higher priority issue. If they are given the choice, are they more worried about their children modifying their behavior and taking up smoking because they see a 5-second image of Joe Camel? Or, are they more worried about their children modifying their behavior and responding in a way because they have been able to view some of the most crass, indecent, and, in my opinion, obscene sexual images that we have ever seen? I think the resounding response is going to be: Senator, let's do first things first; let's address the problems that are real problems.

So I conclude by pleading with my colleagues to let us resolve whatever problems you have with our going forward with this. We have been trying to do this. We have hotlined this 2 weeks ago. Both sides know what we are trying to do. If people have a problem, we will resolve that problem. But I hope there will not be an objection to going forward with that today when the majority leader propounds his unanimous consent request to allow us to go forward with this bill.

If there is an objection—after 2 weeks of hotlines, after 2 weeks of going to Members saying, "If you want an amendment, have an amendment, but at least allow us to debate the bill"—I can only conclude there is some effort here to prevent us from even talking about it, even bringing the bill up. We have an opportunity to avoid all that today very shortly when that unanimous consent request is propounded. I trust we will be able to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from Utah.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, it was my intention at this point to propound the unanimous consent request that the Senate proceed to S. 2137, with a list of the amendments to be in order. At the moment, full agreement on this has not yet been worked out between the majority and minority and negotiations are still going on to that end. It is my hope I will be able to offer such a unanimous consent request at sometime in the future.

Looking forward to that time later today when we can get unanimous consent on proceeding to the bill, I would like to outline for the Senate the highlights of the bill. Then I understand there are some others who might wish to speak on the amendments that they would offer to the bill if we were, indeed, on it, and thereby have some of the discussion that we could deal with prior to the bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now go into a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNETT. I further ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to exceed the 10-minute period in the discussion of the legislative branch bill that will be propounded at some point, if, indeed, my time goes beyond that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to exceed the 10 minutes speaking as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as I said, I was planning to ask unanimous consent that we proceed to S. 2137 and outline a series of amendments that would be in order. We are still working on that agreement between the majority leader and the minority leader who, I understand, are talking on this issue right now.

When we do go to that appropriations bill, I will make a point of thanking Senator DORGAN for his assistance as the ranking member. Since I have been chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee and he has been my ranking member, we have not had, in my memory, a single point of major disagreement. Senator DORGAN has been more than diligent in attending all of the meetings of the subcommittee. His staff has been very cooperative with the majority staff in working out the difficulties, and I think it has been the kind of legislative relationship that I looked forward to, when I ran for the Senate, between members of the different parties.

The legislative branch bill will provide \$1,585,021,425 in new budget authority, exclusive of the House items for fiscal year 1999. Comity between the two Houses allows the House to set its amount and the Senate to set its amount, without difficulty from each other. This is a \$53,704,925 increase, or 3.5 percent above the fiscal year 1998 level. But it is \$72,359,575 below the amount included in the President's budget. The majority of the increases

in the bill are for cost-of-living adjustments, estimated at 3.1 percent.

The Senate portion of the bill includes a 1.8 percent increase over the fiscal year 1998 funding, which I think demonstrates some fiscal responsibility on our part. The Library of Congress and the GAO were provided funds for additional FTEs to assist the Congress in the information technology area, particularly addressing the year 2000 computer problem.

The Presiding Officer and others in the Chamber know I have made this something of an obsession. The Senate has created a special committee on the year 2000 technology problem, which I chair. We recognize that most of the expertise to provide the committee with the guidance that it needs will come from detailees to the special committee and from those experts in the Library of Congress and the GAO who already have a background in this area. So, to make sure the year 2000 problem is not exacerbated by lack of funds, these additional FTEs were included in this bill. That is part of the 3.5 percent increase over last year's level.

Approximately 21 percent of the Architect's budget is for capital projects; the balance, of course, of 79 percent is for the operating statement.

These are the outlines of the overall bill. As far as I know, and Senator DORGAN knows, the bill is noncontroversial except for those amendments that some Senators have indicated they would be willing to offer.

With that background of the bill that we have in mind, I yield the floor. I understand Senator BROWNBAC will be talking about some of the amendments that he would offer once the bill does come before us, and we can proceed then in morning business with that matrix. I see the Senator from Kentucky. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, may I ask Senator BROWNBAC how long he thinks he will take? We have some Senators with time problems, and I want to try to accommodate them. If I know how long he will be speaking, and others, I can probably accommodate them.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I don't know for certain who all will be interested in speaking on this.

Mr. FORD. You are asking for more than 10 minutes. I am wondering how long.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Probably around 30 minutes.

Mr. FORD. Will the Senator be willing to say no longer than 30 minutes?

Mr. BROWNBAC. Not at this point in time, but I think that will probably—

Mr. FORD. If that is the way we are going then, no one else will get more than 10 minutes.

Mr. BENNETT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). The Senator from Kansas is recognized under the previous order.